

man forced to the conclusion that North Carolina will be compelled to resort to the same means in order to bring all of her children into the schools provided for them and thus reduce illiteracy and secure to every child his right, to the government its safety, and to the tax-payer the protection that he pays for?

There is already considerable sentiment in the State for a compulsory attendance law, and the sentiment seems to be increasing. The conditions are so different in different sections and different counties of the State that it might not be wise to pass a State compulsory attendance law and undertake to put it into operation at once in every part of the State. It is safest not to force public opinion, but to cultivate it along right lines with patience and persistence and tact. In communities and counties in which the conditions are favorable for it, and in which a healthy public sentiment demands it or can be brought to demand it, I can see no good reason now why compulsory attendance should not be enacted and enforced. There are already many such communities, and even some entire counties. I beg to suggest, therefore, for your consideration the enactment of a mild, reasonable, conservative, compulsory attendance law requiring all children to attend the public schools, unless attending some other school, at least four months or more each year between the ages of eight and twelve years. All the machinery necessary for the successful execution of this law could be set out in the act and then a proviso could be added authorizing the County Board of Education of any county, upon petition or vote of a majority of the patrons of any public school, or of the tax-payers or qualified voters of any public school district or any township or any county to put the law into execution for said school, said district, said township, or said county. If deemed wisest, the act could give the County Board the discretion of acting upon the matter by petition or of submitting it to a vote in an election to be ordered by them. As expressive of the views of the County Superintendents upon this subject, I beg to call your attention to the following resolutions submitted by the committee on resolutions to the State Association of County Superintendents at the last annual meeting of that body in June, and, after discussion, adopted:

Your Committee on Resolutions beg to submit the following report:

Resolved, 1. That we express our gratification at the growing sentiment in favor of compulsory school attendance.

Resolved, 2. That the State Superintendent of Public Instruction in his biennial message to the Legislature suggest the passage of some measure which meets this growing sentiment by giving to the people the right by majority vote in any county, township or school district to establish compulsory attendance in such county, township or district.

C. W. MASSEY,
W. T. R. BELL,
THOS. R. FOUST,
C. W. HOWARD,
F. P. HALL,

Committee.

In this way the problem of compulsory attendance could be worked out in smaller areas where public sentiment was favorable, and other communities would be stimulated and encouraged to follow such successful examples and object-lessons.